

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-17 are pending in this application, of which claims 9-15 have been withdrawn from consideration and claims 1-3 and 16 have been amended. Claims 4-5 have been canceled. No new claims have been added.

Claim 3 has been amended to address an informality objection.

Claims 1-3, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0026545 A1 to Deliwala (hereinafter “**Deliwala**”) or U.S. Patent 6,449,084 to Guo (hereinafter “**Guo**”).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

According to the above-described amendments, the limitation of claims 2 and 3 have been combined with the limitations of allowed claims 4 and 5, respectively. The dielectric materials of claims 1 and 16 are restricted to $(\text{Pb}_{1-w}\text{M}_w)(\text{Zr}_{1-x-y}\text{Ti}_x\text{Sn}_y)_z\text{O}_3$ (wherein $0 \leq w \leq 0.5$, $0 < x \leq 0.5$, $0 < y \leq 0.5$, $0.8 \leq z \leq 1.2$; and M is one kind, or two or more kinds of elements selected from the group consisted of lanthanum, niobium, tantalum, barium and strontium). The Examiner states in the Office Action that none of the references either alone or in combination disclose or render obvious the dielectric material formed of $(\text{Pb}_{1-w}\text{M}_w)(\text{Zr}_{1-x-y}\text{Ti}_x\text{Sn}_y)_z\text{O}_3$ (wherein $0 \leq w \leq 0.5$, $0 < x \leq 0.5$, $0 < y \leq 0.5$, $0.8 \leq z \leq 1.2$; and M is one kind, or two or more kinds of elements selected from the group consisted of lanthanum, niobium, tantalum, barium and strontium). Claim 17 depends on claim 16.

Thus, the 35 USC §102(e) rejections should be withdrawn.

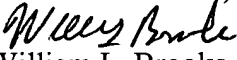
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-3, 6-8 and 16-17, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Substitute Abstract of the Disclosure

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

An optical deflector including an optical waveguide of a dielectric material having electrooptical effect; and a pair of electrodes opposed to each other across the optical waveguide. An electric field is applied between the opposed electrodes to change a refractive index of the dielectric material to thereby control a propagating direction of signal light propagating in the optical waveguide, wherein the dielectric material has a first refractive index in its initial state, has a second refractive index by application of an electric field of a first polarity, and retains as a third refractive index a refractive index obtained after the electric field has been removed. The dielectric material having the third refractive index has the first refractive index by the application of an electric field of a second polarity different from the first polarity and removal of the electric field.